

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15
L-03 NSC-05 SS-15 /101 W
-----311545Z 060885 /45

R 301831Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1199
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USDEL MTN GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS PARIS 09365

PASS AGRICULTURE FROM AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR/FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH REACTION TO EC FAILURE ON 1977-78 AGRICULTURAL PRICES.

1. FAILURE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE "NINE" TO REACH AN AGREEMENT AT BRUSSELS SUBJECT OF WIDESPREAD PRESS, TV, OTHER COMMENTARY. IN NEAR-UNANIMOUS ACCORD FRENCH OBSERVERS LAY BLAME AT FEET OF GREAT BRITAIN, WITH PARTICULARLY BITTER COMMENTARY RESERVED FOR JOHN SILKIN WHO WAS ACCUSED OF "NOT PLAYING THE GAME" AND, INSTEAD OF DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING ABOUT AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE "NINE", TO HAVE ACTUALLY BLOCKED AN ACCORD. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE GOGB IN DEALING WITH UNIONS IN AN INFLATIONARY ATMOSPHERE, THE FRENCH PRESS NOTED THE BENEFITS TO GREAT BRITAIN OF THE
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MCA PAYMENTS AND CONCLUDED THAT ITS CURRENT ATTITUDE WAS UNREASONABLE.

2. MICHEL DEBATISSE, THE PRESIDENT OF F.N.S.E.A. (FRENCH NATIONAL FARMERS UNION), IN A SPEECH TO THE FRENCH JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION ATTENDED BY AGATT, IN THINLY VEILED TERMS QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF EVER ADMITTING GREAT BRI-

TAIN TO THE EC. HE ADDED THAT PERHAPS GREAT BRITAIN SHOULD BENEFIT FROM A DELAY OF SEVERAL MORE YEARS BEFORE BECOMING REALLY PART OF EUROPE. DEBATISSE VOICED THE FEAR THAT GREAT BRITAIN WOULD IMPOSE A NEW SET OF RULES ON EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE TO THE UNIQUE ADVANTAGE OF CONSUMERS. REITERATING HIS OPPOSITION TO EUROPEAN ENLARGEMENT, HE SAID THAT THE CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH GREAT BRITAIN HAD HARPOONED THE IDEA OF A NEW ENLARGEMENT OF THE EC.

3. THE C.N.J.A. (YOUNG FARMERS ASSOCIATION) REFERRED TO INSUFFICIENCY OF 3 PERCENT INCREASE WHICH FRENCH AGRICULTURE WOULD HAVE TO CONTENT ITSELF WITH AS RESULT OF RECENT 3 PERCENT DEVALUATION OF "GREEN FRANC". THE EVEN SMALLER INCREASE OF 2.65 PERCENT FOR MEAT AND MILK PRODUCERS WAS CITED AS ANOTHER MAJOR CONCERN OF THE C.N.J.A.

4. THE A.P.C.A. (FRENCH CHAMBERS OF AGRICULTURE) REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR ACCEPTING CERTAIN ECONOMIC POLICIES AND A COMMUNITY COMPARTMENT. IT ALSO VOICED FEARS OVER A NEW INCREASE IN ITALIAN WINE IMPORTS AS A RESULT OF THE MCA RESHUFFLING.

5. THE LEFT-WING MODEF FARM WORKERS UNION CALLED FOR A 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN PRICES TO MAKE UP FOR PRODUCTION COST INCREASES. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH AN INCREASE IT URGED THE GOF TO MAKE AVAILABLE DIRECT AID TO SMALLER FRENCH FARMERS.

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6. THE DISARRAY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WILL FOCUS CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION ON THE NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, IF RUMORS OF A CHANGE ARE BORNE OUT IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW BARRE CABINET THIS EVENING.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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